The issue of agricultural loans is regulated by certain rules framed for the purpose, and I cannot now say whether they need any amendment or not.

The question of holding agricultural conferences and exhibitions is, at the moment, under the consideration of Government. Proposals are being received from the heads of the various departments, and Government are considering them.

### 24. Punja cultivation in Kuttanad with special reference to the Kottayam taluk.

MR. K. U. ITTYAVIRA (*Kottayam taluk, Group I*) thanked the Government for the help rendered by them to the ryots of Kuttanad in granting special agricultural loans and also for opening the Land Mortgage Bank. Agriculture was the mainstay of the pople of Travancore. But the majority of the agriculturists were at the moment involved in debt. Scientific methods of cultivation, use of improved ploughs, facilities for obtaining loans on easy terms, and facilities for marketing agricultural products to the best advantage, were absent in the State and the ryots were, in consequence, subject to hardship and loss. It was the duty of the Government to help the ryots placed in such a situation and if timely help was not rendered, the economic prosperity of the people and the State would go down. The member made the following suggestions for improving the condition of the ryots :—

(1) Establishment of an agricultural board in Kuttanad.

(2) Provision of an allotment of Rs. 2 lakhs every year for grant of agricultural loans to *punja* cultivators.

(3) Remission of tax on *punja* lands damaged by breach of bunds.

(4) Construction of a bund connecting Tannirmukkam with Vechur and of small bunds across the canals falling into the Kumarakam backwater in order to prevent the flow of brackish water into the *punja* lands.

(5) Opening of a branch of the Land Mortgage Bank at Kottayam.

(6) Opening of a demonstration farm and a manure depot at Kumarakam.

(7) Supply of kerosene oil to *punja* cultivators during the cultivation season through Government agency.

(8) Issue of loans at low rates of interest to co-operative societies of agriculturists.

(9) Cutting open the Maveli *todu* branching off from the Illikkal river.

(10) Appointment of a commission to enquire into the condition of the *punja* cultivators to suggest ways and means for improving it.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ittyavira, you have mentioned in your representation ten different subjects.

In regard to the establishment of an agricultural board, if the people will take the initiative in the matter, Government will render them all possible help.

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As for the provision of a special allotment of two lakhs of rupees every year for the grant of agricultural loans to the *punja* cultivators and the remission of tax on *punja* lands damaged by breaches of bunds, I can only say that each case will be considered on its merits, as it arises.

In regard to the prevention of the flow of brackish water into *punja* lands, part (4) of your representation, the Chief Engineer will be consulted.

You want a branch of the Land Mortgage Bank to be established at Kottayam. As the Bank was itself started in Trivandrum only two months ago, the question of opening branches must wait until business develops.

As regards the opening of a manure depot and a demonstration farm at Kumarakam, a manure depot can be established there if a suitable body, a co-operative society for instance, would come forward to take up an agency.

For the supply of kerosene to the *punja* cultivators during the cultivation season, there are already, at Kottayam, Alleppey and Changanachery, agents dealing in kerosene. There is, therefore, no necessity for creating any Government agency for the purpose.

In regard to the Maveli *todu*, the Public Works Department has conducted a preliminary investigation about it.

There seems to be no need for a commission to enquire into the condition of agriculture. The problems in regard to cultivation can be tackled by one or other of the Departments of Government.

### 25. Measures to be adopted by the Government for the development of industries in the State.

MR. R. KUMARA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Colachel*) said that adequate attention had not been bestowed by the Government for the development of industries. The Industries Department was not of any material benefit to the people. Agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Travancore. But the State could not produce paddy in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the people even for eight months in a year. The people were therefore obliged to take to some sort of industries to earn their livelihood. The prices of the chief agricultural products of the State, such as paddy, cocoanut, pepper and cardamoms had gone down considerably and the agriculturists were experiencing great hardships thereby. The number of the unemployed was also increasing day by day. The Government had therefore a duty cast upon them to find out ways and means for developing local industries and help the people in earning their livelihood. The member made the following suggestions for the serious consideration of the Government —

(1) Opening of institutes for imparting instruction in carpentry, smithery, weaving and soap making.

(2) Spinning should be made a compulsory subject of study in all schools and weaving in the schools in important centres.

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